UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,501	04/18/2001	Mu-Ann Chen	3158/0J114	8067

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN BA, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 April 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 April 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1.   This action is responsive to original application filed on April 18, 2001.

2.   Claims 1-15 have been considered. Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims.

Priority

3.   Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers

have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5.   Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by

Dreamweaver 4.0 Tutorial - Help Contents (hereinafter "Dreamweaver"), Macromedia, Inc., ©

1997-2000 (http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/).

Independent Claim 1

Dreamweaver teaches a system for automatically allocating layout, comprising:

an editing unit having a layout template comprising a plurality of display areas (pgs. 2-4 → i.e. layout cells and tables), *wherein data is inputted into a least one display area* (pgs. 6 and 18 → "Adding Content to a Cell"); and

an integrating unit for automatically merging display areas that contain data with adjacent display areas that do not contain data (pg. 13, paragraphs 1 and 8 → columns will disappear completely (i.e. merge) if they do not contain content).

Claim 4

Dreamweaver further teaches a *previewing unit* (pg. 32 → "Previewing in Browsers").

Claim 6

Dreamweaver further teaches the plurality of display areas in a layout template comprising a *grid with at least one row or one column* (pg. 4, paragraph 6; pg. 5 → "Dreamweaver Grid").

Claim 7

Dreamweaver further teaches that the layout template is a *web page* (pg. 1, paragraph 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   Claims 2, 3, 5, and 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Dreamweaver 4.0 Tutorial (Help Contents), Macromedia, Inc., © 1997-2000

(http://www.macromedia.com/macromedia/).

Claim 3

Dreamweaver teaches the system for automatically allocating layout with respect to

independent claim 1 discussed above, but does not specifically teach a data unit for storing data

to be inputted into the display areas.

However, Dreamweaver does refer to inserting media into the web layout. It was

commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art that various types of media (clipart,

symbols, etc.) are usually readily stored for insertion into the layout template (see Table of

Contents (TOC)). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to include a data unit for storing data to be inputted into the

display areas for the purpose of having readily-made media available for insertion into a user's

web layout template.

Claim 5

Dreamweaver teaches the system for automatically allocating layout with respect to

independent claim 1 discussed above, but does not specifically teach a memory unit for saving a

layout. It was commonly known to those of skill in the art to have a memory unit for saving a

layout for the purpose of preserving the layout for future use.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include a memory unit for saving a layout for the purpose of preserving the layout for future use.

Independent Claim 8 and Dependent Claims 2, 11-15

Dreamweaver teaches the system and method for automatically allocating layout with respect to claim 1 discussed above, *wherein the integrating unit selects a first display area of the plurality of display areas, and determines whether a second or third display area adjacent to the first display area in the horizontal direction contains data, and merges the first and second display areas if the second display area does not contain data* (pg. 13, paragraphs 1 and 8 → columns (horizontal direction) will disappear completely (i.e. merge) if they do not contain content).

Dreamweaver does not specifically teach the determination of whether a second or third display area adjacent to the first display area in the *vertical direction* contains data, and *merge* the first and second or third display areas if the third display area does not contain data. However, in addition to automatic horizontal merging as discussed above, Dreamweaver teaches the manual merging of any number of adjacent cells to produce a single cell that spans several columns *or rows* (pgs. 27-28) for the purpose of saving empty space within a web layout template.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the determination of whether a second or third display area adjacent to the first display area in the *vertical direction* contains data, and automatically

merge the first and second or third display areas if the third display area does not contain data for the purpose of saving empty space within a web layout template.

Claim 9

Claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 10

Claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 5, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Conclusion

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (703) 305-8776. The examiner can normally be reached from 10 am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER